FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

12 FEBRUARY 1986

Iran-Iraq War

Iranian forces have captured three Iraqi missile bases in Al-Faw and have killed, wounded, or captured some 7,200 Iraqi troops in the course of their latest offensive, Iran announced in a military communique reported by IRNA 12 February. In a related report, the agency claimed that the Iranians have downed 14 Iraqi warplanes and have captured over 150 tanks and personnel carriers since the start of the offensive.

In contrast, an Iraqi commander cited by Voice of the Masses radio stated that the Iraqi III Army Corps defeated another Iranian attack east of Basra the night of 11 February. A military communique broadcast earlier by the radio stated that the III Army Corps had "wiped out the aggressors in the last foothold they had on its right flank," killing 1,978 Iranian troops. Iraqi forces killed 500 Iranians in recapturing Umm al-Rasas Island, the communique stated, and Iraqi warplanes launched further strikes against Iranian targets, including the Ganaveh pipeline intersection. As for the air war, Iraqi military sources cited by INA reported the downing of an Iranian Phantom over the southern front on 12 February.

Iraqi President Saddam Husayn briefed visiting PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat on Iraq's "success" in crushing the Iranian offensive, Voice of the Masses reported. Meanwhile, the Iraqi defense minister denied Iranian claims about an Iranian "seige" of Al-Faw in a telephone conversation with his Kuwaiti counterpart, INA revealed. Bahrain and Oman likewise denounced the Iranian offensive in official statements reported by WAKH and Muscat radio.

Israel

Welcoming Anatoliy Shcharanskiy in a speech broadcast by IDF radio, Prime Minister Shim'on Peres said he is "deeply moved" by the attitude of the U.S. people and government toward Israel and the Soviet Jews. The radio also broadcast Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's remarks welcoming Shcharanskiy's deliverance from the "purgatory" of a Soviet jail and urging the Soviet people to "open the gates of your country for the members of the Jewish nation who wish to return to their homeland." In earlier remarks broadcast by IDF radio, Shamir noted that the Soviet Union is expected to release up to seven more "prisoners of Zion," and he said the Soviet Union is trying to buy the sympathy of Western public opinion by freeing individuals.

In a separate development, the Israeli Navy chased and captured a "suspicious" Turkish boat off the Gaza coast, Jerusalem radio reported. The captain was found dead and crew members claimed that he was killed by shots fired by the Israeli Navy during the chase.

Libya-Chad

GUNT forces captured Koro Toro, Kouba Olanga, and Oum Chalouba in northern Chad, AFP reported 12 February, citing a communique from GUNT President Goukouni Oueddei. The communique also "categorically" denied that Libyan forces are participating in the fighting. Ndjamena radio earlier reported that "Libyan invaders" had been "forced out" of Kouba Olanga 11 February. In Tripoli, a JANA editor said that Chadian claims that Libya is "preparing to undertake" military action in Chad are "untruthful" and "cause for ridicule," adding that Libya is committed to noninterference in "this tribal war." Nevertheless, the Libreville radio station Africa No. 1 cited Chadian official sources as saying that Kouba Olanga was attacked by Libyan troops and not by the forces of Goukouni Oueddei.

Lebanon

Sixty-four people have been arrested and charged with terrorism and sabotage, a Lebanese Forces source told Voice of Lebanon radio. The arrests were carried out after people "involved with" former Lebanese Forces leader Elie Hubayqah began to assemble "sabotage teams," the radio disclosed earlier. The radio claimed that former Lebanese Forces security chief As'ad Shaftari had coordinated the terrorist operations, adding that sources indicated Shaftari met with a Syrian intelligence officer in West Beirut 10 February.

In a subsequent development, Voice of Lebanon reported two people were killed and five wounded in an explosion at the Star Movie Theater in the 'Ayn al-Rummanah area of East Beirut on 12 February. Radio Free Lebanon followed with a report blaming Elie Hybayqah supporters for the explosion, and claiming that 2 women were killed and 14 people wounded.

PDRY

The former interior and deputy security ministers and the former commanders of the Air and Air Defense Force, Navy, and Militia have reportedly been arrested for their involvement in the "recent events," according to Kuwait's *AL-ANBA'* citing a Yemeni source. In a separate development, WAKH cited the UAE's *AL-ITTIHAD as reporting that PLO representative in Aden* 'Abbas Zaki was expelled from the PDRY 10 February for "intervening" last month on the side of former leader 'Ali Nasir Muhammad.

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Karmal Praises Gorbachev L'HUMANITE Statements

LD120725 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0450 GMT 12 Feb 86

[Text] Kabul, February 11, BAKHTAR — The answers of Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, to the questions of the newspaper *L'HUMANITE* most clearly and explicitly set forth the CPSU's policy at the present stage of the country's development on the threshold of the most important event in the life of the Soviet people "the 27th Congress of the CPSU, *PRAVDA* and TASS correspondents were told by Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, president of the DRA Revolutionary Council. The statements by Comrade Mikhail Gorbachev on problems of present-day international development, in common with his preceding statements on that subject are permeated with concern for peace. Characteristic of them is a deep-going political analysis, constructive approach and historical realism.

It is with special attention and interest that we have received the evaluation given by the general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee of the situation in Afghanistan and around it. It gives an accurate analysis of the causes of outbreak of the conflict and ways for its settlement. Mikhail Gorbachev's pronouncements are consonant with the strivings and wishes of our people.

Now we in the DRA are successfully advancing on the road of resolving the long-ripe problems of the country's internal development.

Broad sections of the people, including representatives of tribes, the clergy, intelligentsia and business circles are ever more actively drawing into that process. Under way is a consolidation of the national patriotic forces, which can make a contribution to starting peaceful life.

Special attention is devoted to the development of the countryside, since the rural dwellers make an overwhelming majority of the country's population, the Afghan leader continued. The other DPPA meeting [words indistinct] in Kabul, of party and government executives on questions of the party's policy in the field of agriculture. The meeting outlined a whole package of measures directed at improving the situation in that, actually, the main branch of Afghanistan's economy.

I would wish to note specially that the course of land and water [words indistinct] that the agrarian issue is being resolved in Afghanistan in the interests of the working peasantry.

Former farmhands get their own land plots, cooperatives are established, but the [words indistinct].

The People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan enjoys growing trust between the working people and true patriots of the homeland with every passing day.

It is understandable, however, and this was particularly explicitly emphasized by General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev that not everything in that field depends on us. The main cause of the remaining tensions has been and is interference of outside forces, which have a stake in its continuing and broadening, above all Pakistan and the USA. As far as the DRA is concerned, we are ready for a constructive political dialogue, including the final coordination of all documents making political settlement. This has been convincingly shown by the last round of the Geneva talks.

Yet a decision on these issues, Babrak Karmal said, should be drawn up in the course of direct talks with the Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, as it is the sole and plenipotentiary representative of the Afghan people.

PDPA Political Bureau Discusses Elections

LD111518 Kabul BAKHTAR in Dari 1130 GMT 10 Feb 86

[Text] Kabul, 10 Feb (BAKHTAR) – The PDPA Central Committee Political Bureau discussed the results of the first phase of the election to local organs of state power and DRA administration and subsequent tasks in this regard. It has approved a resolution, the summary of which is as follows:

The PDPA Central Committee Political Bureau assessed the election to the local organs of state power and administration, which began on 3 August 1985 and took place for the first time in the Afghan history, as a great historical event in the political development of the DRA and the democratization of the sociopolitical life of the country.

The first phase of these elections in Kabul city and in Kabul, Badakhshan, Balkh, Nimroz, and Nangarhar Provinces, which were held in completely free atmosphere in consideration of the traditions of the people, were successfully completed with festivities by the local people. There was also moral and material help for the people in accordance with the norms and spirit of the law.

The elections process was consistently assessed by the High Commission for the Convocation of the Elections and the relevant party committees; necessary assistance was rendered to ensure the precise organization and preparations of the elections.

The people everywhere with fervour and enthusiasm welcomed and congratulated their representatives and expressed their readiness to implement the policy of the party and state and maintain peace and security in the country.

Despite the difficulties created by the counterrevolutionaries, some 90 percent of the people were eligible to vote, including in the tribal areas, and took part in the elections electing 4,120 delegates in 281 tribal assemblies, which is a great stride toward broadening the social bases of the revolutionary power in the localities. The political bases of the tribal assemblies are constituted by workers, peasants, and artisans, whose share is 54.8 percent in the new composition.

Spiritual leaders, national traders, capitalists, and middle class intellectuals are included in the elected representatives of the people. This indicates their active participation in the construction of a democratic society.

Some 40.8 percent of the delegates are PDPA members, which shows the confidence of the people in the party and the relations

between the party and the masses of the people. The composition of the tribal assemblies and councils accords with the national structure of the relevant localities. Pashtuns, Tajiks, Hazaras, Turkmens, Nurestanis, and other nationalities are included in the structure of the tribal assemblies.

The elections of the Tribal Assembly Executive Committees were organized in a principled democratic manner at all levels. The demands and requests of the people were considered and assessed in the tribal assemblies and appropriate measures were adopted concerning their implementation.

The results of the first phase of the elections showed that there have been some shortcomings and defects in the convocation and holding of the elections. In some localities necessary attention was not paid to explaining the law of local organs and the election law and the importance of the people's sovereignty, and the election campaign was not sufficiently reflected in the mass media.

Some ministries, departments, and social organizations did not do their necessary share in the convocation of the elections to maintain economic, transport, and health plans and to meet of the needs of the people.

The PDPA Central Committee Political Bureau approves:

1. The result of the first phase of the elections for the establishment of tribal assemblies, local councils of people's representatives, and their executive committees are assessed as positive. The most important political task for the year beginning 21 March, and the most honorable task of the PDPA and the DRA Revolutionary Council is the successful convocation and conclusion of the elections in order to broaden the social pillars of the people's sovereignty, to normalize the situation in the country, to consolidate party contacts with the masses of the people, and to attract the various classes and strata of people to the defense of the revolution and to foiling aggression.

The High Commission for the Preparation and Convocation of Elections, and the party, social, and economic committees and organizations should take necessary measures to complete the elections of the local organs and state power administration by the end of 1986 in all the villages and localities of the country.

The composition of the High Commission for the Preparation and Convocation of Elections for the local organs and state power administration is confirmed.

2. The officials responsible for the zones, and party and social committee and organizations should consider as a base the 16th PDPA Central Committee Plenum's decisions and the statement by the DRA Revolutionary Council dated 13 November 1985 on the organizational work and convocation of the elections. And in order to broaden the social pillars of the people's sovereignty, the officials should ensure the new approach, and while establishing tribal assemblies, councils, and their executive committees should take into consideration the ratio of workers, peasants, tradesmen, intellectuals, capitalists, small traders, armed forces officials, theologians, youths, representatives of the classes, strata, and nationalities of the tribes and nations of the country.

The elections campaign should proceed together with the implementation of economic measures to provide primary goods for the people, chemical fertilizers, seeds, health cooperation, repairs, schools, and hospitals and establish irrigation systems and other necessities for the people.

In appointing the candidates for the tribal assemblies, councils, and executive committees, the views and suggestions of the local elders and influential people should be used, especially in the villages.

3. The Central Council of the National Fatherland Front, of the trade unions, of the Democratic Women of Afghanistan [DWOA] and of the Democratic Youth of Afghanistan [DYOA] Central Committee, together with the party committees should take the necessary measures with regard to enhancing the role and activities of their local organizations for the preparation and holding of the election campaign. The election campaign should be used in order to maintain links with the people, for growth in the ranks, and for strengthening the local organizations' participation in the cause of uniting and mobilizing the patriots. It should be used to make efforts so that the representatives who have been elected to the tribal assemblies and councils should always go among the toilers, and take care of their interests and needs, and to explain to them in simple words the policy of the revolutionary party and government. They should expose the criminal actions of the counterrevolutionary elements and they should be a reliable bastion of the party and state among the people.

4. The DRA Council of Ministers should take the necessary measures to improve further the leadership of the local organs and state power administration and study the issue of transferring certain executive duties to the executive committees of the tribal assemblies and councils.

Specific and practical measures should be adopted so that local representatives and village chiefs use state grants to meet the material and technical needs of the villages' executive committees.

5. The ministers, chairmen of state committees, and responsible officials in social organizations should insure the active participation of their organs in preparing and holding elections and in solving ideological, economic, and social needs.

The need to provide skilled cadres and experts for executive committees should be studied in light of the new requirements of the organs of people's power and the necessary measures should be adopted and put into practice within 3 months.

6. The strengthening of the armed forces, and especially the implementation of duties regarding conscription, the expansion of the influence of people's power in residential areas, the organization of security and social order, and solving economic and social problems in the interests of the toilers and of the state are regarded as the urgent task of the newly elected tribal assemblies and their executive committees.

The provincial, district, subdistrict, city, and ward party committees should constantly improve the party leadership in the tribal

assemblies and councils and in their executive committees and should cooperate with them to learn new work methods. They should get the necessary assistance to study and assess the demands of the toilers and inhabitants. The cooperation and assistance of these organizations, which are active in the relevent tribal assemblies and councils, should be exploited to meet these demands. Party members who have been elected to the tribal assemblies and councils should serve as a good example in the implementation of their duties. Party members should pay attention to training cadres and strengthening their apparatus with worthy and effective cadres.

7. The propaganda, propagation, and education departments of the PDPA central Committee, the army and sarandoy political department, and the provincial party committees should send propaganda teams equipped with the necessary technical facilities, charts, and graphs to the localities before the start of the elections. In addition to party members and members of social organizations, efforts should be made to include representatives of the theologians, nationalities, tribes, and other local influential people. Verbal and visual propaganda should be used and the elections should be held with spectacular ceremonies.

The mass media should actively reflect the election campaign process, the initial duties of the newly elected organs of people's power, and their role in performing revolutionary duties.

Mujahidin Claim Downing Five Fighter Planes

GF111301 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic
1130 GMT 11 Feb 86

[Text] Western diplomats in Islamabad stated today that the Afghan mujahidin have shot down five fighter planes in the Province of Jowzjan in southern Afghanistan. The mujahidin also killed about 90 communist soldiers during attacks they launched on eight positions near Herat in western Afghanistan over the past 2 weeks.

The sources indicated that among those who were killed near Herat were a number of Soviet soldiers. The sources added that hospitals in Kabul are treating large numbers of those were wounded during the fighting which took place between the mujahidin and the Soviet forces in the strategic valley of Panjsher, north of the Afghan capital.

Spokesman on Sri Lanka, Afghanistan Briefings

BK111512 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1437 GMT 11 Feb 86

[Text] Briefing newsmen on 11 February, 1986, the official spokesman made the following statement: On his return from Colombo after brief period of consultations, high commissioner of Sri Lanka Mr. Bernard Tilakratna, called on Foreign Secretary Romesh Bhandari this morning. High commissioner explained to foreign secretary position of his government in regard to some basic issues of ethnic problem. In this regard he told the foreign secretary very categorically that his government was not seeking a military solution. Sri Lanka remains fully committed to seeking a political solution acceptable to all concerned. The foreign secretary and high commissioner will be meeting again later this week.

The spokesman also told newsmen that during his recent visit to Kabul, secretary (West), Dr. J.S. Teja called on Prime Minister Sultan Ali Kishtmand, Foreign Minister Shah Mohammad Dost and senior officials of Afghanistan Foreign Ministry. Discussions covered bilateral relations, situation in the region, the Nonaligned Movement and the UN secretary general's initiatives towards a political settlement.

Dr. Taja reaffirmed India's support to independence, integrity and nonaligned status of Afghanistan as well as its support for a political settlement on the basis of noninterference and nonintervention. Afghanistan side conveyed their appreciation of India's role as chairman of Nonaligned Movement in promoting peace and stability in the region as well as India's assistance and cooperition in the field of economic and technical development of Afghanistan.

Karnataka Chief Minister Resigns Over Court Verdict

BK120333 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 12 Feb 86

[Excerpt] The Karnataka chief minister, Mr Ramakrishna Hegde, has resigned. This follows the state high court's adverse judgement in the arrack bottling contract case. The All India Radio Bangalore correspondent, Shesha Chandrika, says Mr Hegde sent his resignation letter to the governor, Mr A.M. Banerjee, last evening taking moral responsibility for the adverse verdict of the court. The governor is away on a tour of northern districts and is expected to be back this afternoon. Mr Hegde was not available for comment. Our correspondent adds that an informal cabinet meeting is expected this morning and the Janata Legislature Party may also hold an urgent meeting to discuss the issue. Last evening the state information minister, Mr Jeevaraj Alwa, who disclosed the resignation to newsmen, said Mr Hegde remained firm on his decision despite the efforts by his cabinet colleagues to dissuade him on the ground that a decision should be taken collectively.

The Janata party president, Mr Chandrasekhar, has ruled out any change in the leadership of the Karnataka ministry. He told newsmen at Faizabad in Uttar Pradesh that he would look into the matter after returning to New Delhi.

The high court verdict had rocked both the houses of legislature with the opposition led by Congress-I demanding the resignation of the government. The issue is also slated for discussion in the assembly on Friday.

The court, in its verdict, on 31 January crossed the state government's order of granting the arrack bottling contract to eight hand-picked contractors. It said eligible applicants have been rejected and those who are not eligible under the rules were selected for the award of the contract.

'Untoward Incidents' Occur in West Bengal Strike

BK111621 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 11 Feb 86

[Text] In West Bengal, normal life was disrupted by the Bangla bundh [Bengal strike] which began at 0600 this morning. Our Calcutta correspondent reports that trams and buses remained off the road in the city. The suburban train services both on the eastern and southeastern railway, were totaly disrupted. Attendance in the state government offices was almost nil and the headquarters of the state administration remained completely desolate. However, there was some attendance in public sector undertakings.

The call for the 24-hour bundh was given by the ruling left front in protest against the rise in the prices of petroleum products and other essential commodities.

The chief minister, Mr Jyoti Basu, described the bundh as total and peaceful. Briefing newsmen in Calcutta this evening, he said police had to open fire at Sankrawl in Howjah district near a jute mill this morning to maintain peace. Two persons were injured. Some untoward incidents also took place in the industrial belt of 24 Paraganas and Hoogly.

In separate incidents at Pandabeshwar in Burdwan district, the central industrial security force fired and lathi [baton] charged, injuring 11 persons. The chief minister has condemned the firing. Mr Basu also said the people responded in favor of the bundh.

The chairman of the ruling left front, Mr Saroj Mukherjee, and the leaders of the left trade unions have described today's bundh as total and peaceful.

However, in a statement, the state Congress-I president, Mr Priya Ranjan Das Munshi, alleged that the willing workers and employees were not allowed to join their duties. Protesting against the bundh, the Congress-I workers brought out path jatras [walking march] in different parts of Calcutta. About 400 Congress-I workers courted arrest, violating prohibitory orders at Howrah town this afternoon.

Gorbachev Message Delivered to ICO Secretary General
BK120239 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 12 Feb 86

[Text] The Soviet ambassador called on the secretary general of Islamic Conference Organization in Islamabad yesterday and delivered a special message from the Soviet leader, Gorbachev. The meeting lasted 45 minutes.

Afghan Protest of Airspace Violation Rejected
BK120530 Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu
0500 GMT 12 Feb 86

[Text] Pakistan has rejected a protest made by the Kabul authorities on Sunday [9 February] alleging that a Pakistani jet violated Afghan airspace in Konarha Province on 5 February. The Afghan Charge d'Affaires was summoned to the Foreign Office in Islamabad yesterday and was told that Pakistan rejects this protest of the Kabul authorities. He was asked to inform the Kabul authorities to desist from making such fictitious and baseless allegations.

Planning Minister Takes Oath of Office 12 Feb
BK120902 Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu
0800 GMT 12 Feb 86

[Text] Dr Mahbubul Haq has taken the oath of office as federal minister. President Mohammad Ziaul Haq administered the oath of office to him, and Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo was also present. Dr Mahbubul Haq has been made the minister for planning and development.

Cabinet Committee Reviews National Economy
BK120452 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 11 Feb 86

[Text] The cabinet's economic coordination committee has reviewed the performance of the national economy during 1984-85 in the light of the annual plan targets. Mian Mohammad Yasin Khan Watto, federal minister for finance and economic affairs presided over the meeting. The committee was told that according to the latest statistics, the gross national product during this period grew by 9 percent, while the target was fixed at 8.5 percent. There was a total investment of 71,762 million rupees during 1983-84 which increased to 82,658 million rupees during 1984-85, a 15.2 percent increase. The value of monetary assets increased to 19,347 million rupees — an 11.9 percent increase. Inflation was a little more than the fixed target and had a good impact on the economy due to the unprecedented increase in the gross national product.

The committee also reviewed the movement of essential commodities and the stock position in the country and termed it satisfactory.

Further Reportage on Revolution Anniversary

Khamene'i Visits Qom

LD112149 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 11 Feb 86

[Station correspondent report on President Seyyid 'Ali Khamene'i's visit to Qom]

[Text] On the 7th anniversary of the magnificent victory of the Islamic revolution of Iran, Revolution Day, and the Day of Allah, Mr Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, president of the Republic and chairman of the Supreme Defense Council, this afternoon arrived in the city of blood and uprising, the holy city of Qom. After a meeting and talks with His Holiness Grand Ayatollah Montazeri, he went to a rally held in the quadrangle of the holy shrine of the holy Ma'sumah — may Allah's peace be upon her — attended by Qom's revolutionary people. He gave a speech expressing condolences for the martyrdom of holy Fatimah the refulgent — may Allah's peace be upon her — the beloved daughter of the most noble prophet — may Allah's benedictions and peace be upon him and his scion — and expounding on the inception and the course of the sacred movement of Islam. He emphasized the role played by the Qom religious seminary and inhabitants in this historic movement by saying:

Today our biggest issue is our revolution. It has saved the Iranian nation from the abyss of abjection imposed on it and raised it to the heights of honor and esteem — granted to it by God. All our cause for pride we owe to this great elixir and historic achievements. If today you hear that the green banner of the Imam Rida shrine is aflutter on Iraqi soil and then you hear that our combatants have crossed the borders and are dealing blows at the enemy which shake him to his foundations, so much so as to move King Husayn and Mubarak, what is responsible is none other but this very Islamic revolution! It is the great elixir that has turned copper into gold, revived dead bodies, and given us such a stout heart that when the greatest superpower exposed his nails and teeth, we were not worried! This belongs to you, O nation, and there is no other nation and country which is like you. It is you and it is the leader and officials of your country for whom the anger and laughter of the superpowers are of no consequence.

Continuing his speech, Mr Khamene'i referred to the dangers that threatened the Islamic revolution and that were removed thanks to the vigilance of the leadership and wakefulness of the people. He said: The lose of ideology in revolution, the vulnerability of leadership, and the lack of continuity in leadership constitute some of the dangers that threaten the principle of revolution. However, our revolution, relying on a sacred and religious leadership and your presence, O resisting people, has been able to safeguard itself from such dangers!

Mr Khamene'i added: Our vigilant imam has not confined himself to merely bringing about this revolution, but has continuously endeavored to inform the people of the plots of world arrogance and, like a keen gardener, has continued to water this sapling.

The president of the Republic also referred to the election of Grand Ayatollah Montazeri as the future leader by the Assembly of Experts and said it is yet another demonstration of the continuity of leadership. He said: The election of the future leader is tantamount to a revolutionary reserve and is the result of our (?far-sightedness).

The president of the Republic, referring to the evils that threaten our revolution, then mentioned neglect of a constructive course of Islam and Islamic training as one of the evils threatening the revolution. He said: So far no revolution has occurred which enjoys the dimensions and characteristics of this revolution. No nation has safeguarded its revolution in this manner, faced such great and assorted problems emanating from foreign countries, or achieved all these successes. All this is the result of our Islamic faith and crystal clear Islamic thinking which relies on the Koran.

The president of the Republic also emphasized the need for resistance and safeguarding the revolutionary movement in order to continue the revolution. He said: Today, despite the war, we are carrying out a great deal of work, yet we should not forget that we are a revolutionary nation and are standing against all the tyrants of the age. Therefore, one generation should put up with difficulties. We are standing in order to bring about a society which will be a model for oppressed and suppressed humanity!

Mr Khamene'i then referred to neglect of foreign dangers as yet another evil threatening the revolution saying: Another evil and threat which could render the revolution ineffectual could be our neglect of foreign dangers that threaten the revolution and the taking of stands in opposition to one another. A number of people harbor the intention, by displaying illusory dangers, of diverting the people's minds from the real dangers. Islam's enemies attempt, by sowing discord between the Shi'ites and Sunnis, to place brother Muslims against one another. Today anyone who wants to sow discord between Islamic creeds and Muslims is a traitor to Islam.

The chairman of the Supreme Defense Council, referring to the victories gained by Islam's combatants in the Val-Fajr-8 operations and the momentous divine blessings during this attack, said: By entering Iraqi territory we wish to punish the Ba'th Party by our own hand. We previously issued a warning, but the Saddamists and their backers did not believe us. We expressed the wish to punish Iraq's Ba'thist 'Aflaqite regime, but they did not take this seriously. However, we shall pursue a thief who has transgressed against our house and we shall punish him even in his own house. Of course, this is not the final task but constitutes a practical warning. We desire a just peace. In other words first, justice and then peace. These people, however, are ignoring the problem of justice. At this stage our combatants have crossed Arvand River and this was an extremely difficult task, but thanks to divine blessings it succeeded.

Mr Khamene'i added: Today, by the grace of God, our combatants are so prepared in order to smash any resistance. Saddam Husayn has so suggested to his backers and even the United States that Iran was no longer capable of dealing a blow! They even said: For the Jerusalem exercises Iran has used reserve divisions on the fronts! But of course you have seen how our combatants dealt their blow at them!

Then Mr Khamene'i, president of the Republic and chairman of the Supreme Defense Council, then visited the holy shrine of the holy Ma'sumah — may Allah's peace be upon her! He then visited the graves of the martyrs of the Islamic revolution and the ulema of Islam in that shrine and prayed. He met and talked with the members of the Qom religious seminary.

Tehran Marchers Issue Resolution

LD111420 Tehran IRNA in English 1342 GMT 11 Feb 86

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 11, IRNA — A million-strong march of committed Muslim Iranians was held here Tuesday to renew allegiance to the leader of the Islamic revolution of Iran, Imam Khomeyni.

The march, marking the seventh anniversary of the Islamic revolution, started from early hours Tuesday in various streets of Tehran leading to Azadi Square where marchers issued a 12-point resolution.

The resolution, read by the head of the Coordination Council of the Islamic Propagation Organization, Hojjat ol-Eslam Javadi, strongly supported the principle of religious jurisprudence manifested in the leadership of Imam Khomeyni and the future spiritual leader Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri.

Reiterating contination of war until the achievement of final victory, the resolution stressed that the fight will be continued until the removal of the Iraqi regime and rejected disguised peace-seeking attempts.

It condemned crimes committed by international imperialism in various parts of the world, including the recent attempt to hijack a Libyan airliner and the plot to reduce oil prices.

The resolution called on the Islamic countries to adopt the policy of neither East nor West and alongside with their people thwart such vicious schemes.

The marchers, condemning U.S. crimes against oppressed people of the world and inhumane measures of the Soviet Union against Muslim people of Afghanistan, supported Islamic and liberation-seeking movements in the world.

The resolution stressed that the only key to the liberation of Al-Quds (Palestine) was the annihilation of the Zionist regime, noting that it was possible only through relying on the faith of the Muslims and their unity of expression.

It referred to the devotions of the Lebanese Muslim people and heroes such as the Egyptian soldier Sulayman Khatir as practical measures vis-a-vis the Zionist regime.

The resolution also supported endeavours of the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran in safeguarding achievements of the Islamic revolution and called for a decisive stance in fighting against plots of international arrogance.

24 Million Celebrate Countrywide

LD111836 Tehran IRNA in English 1801 GMT 11 Feb 86

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 11, IRNA — An estimated 24 million Iranians rallied through towns and cities in Iran marking the seventh anniversary of the triumph of the Islamic revolution Tuesday morning shouting slogans in condemnation of the superpowers and calling for a continued defensive war with the Iraqi forces, as Iran's Muslim troops were busy fighting with the Iraqi forces in a renewed offensive near the Iraqi city of Al-Faw.

In Tehran alone upwards of five million fervent supporters of the revolution gathered in and along streets leading to the Azadi Square in west Tehran to listen to President Khamene'i on the tenth day of the Ten-Day-Dawn ceremonies marking the return to Tehran of Imam Khomeyni on February 1, 1979 and the triumph of the Islamic revolution this day in 1979. (IRNA dispatch number THR 023 Tuesday erroneously put the figure at one million)

The rallies here and elsewhere in Iran were reminiscent of the Al-Quds rallies on the last Friday of the month of Ramadhan (June 14) at which millions of Iranians took to the streets throughout the country braving Saddam's threats of bombarding demonstrating people in Iran on that day.

Foreign broadcasts and news agencies also covered the news of the ceremonies in Iran.

Anniversary Celebrated Abroad

LD101111 Tehran IRNA in English 0938 GMT 10 Feb 86

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 10, IRNA — A member of the Pakistan Consultative Assembly, Asaad Gilani, said in Islamabad Sunday that the strong will of the Iranians has defeated the Iraqi regime despite the military and economic support given to it by the imperialist powers.

He made the statements at a ceremony held to mark the seventh anniversary of the victory of the Islamic revolution of Iran.

Gilani, who is also a prominent Sunni Muslim figure, stressed that the international arrogance in order to crush the spread of the Islamic revolution throughout the world, was trying to confine it to Shi'ite Muslims.

Iran's ambassador to Pakistan Mahmoud Musavi who was also present at the ceremony refered to plots of international imperialism and said that there were evidences indicating that the U.S. was attempting to overshadow the outcome of President Khamene'i's recent visit to Pakistan.

The occasion was also celebrated in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, in which Arab and Iranian Muslim students reiterated their allegiance to Imam Khomeyni and support for the continuation of the Iraqi-imposed war until complete removal of the oppressor.

In a resolution (?issued at the) ceremony, the participants lauded the new movement of the Egyptian Muslim students against the Zionist regime and Husni Mubarak's rule.

Condemning the military occupation of Afghanistan, the resolution called for the unconditional withdrawal of the usurper forces.

It also called on the OPEC member countries to confront the [word indistinct] by Britain to reduce oil prices.

On situation in Lebanon, the resolution condemned reconciliatory measures of subservient forces and supported the establishment of an Islamic system in that country.

Meanwhile in Canberra, Australia, a special ceremony was held at the city's mosque last Saturday which was attended by a large number of members of the Iranian Embassy. Another ceremony was held by the Iranian Embassy at [words indistinct].

Arab League Baghdad Meeting Participants Warned

LD120028 Tehran IRNA in English 0014 GMT 12 Feb 86

[Text] Tehran, Feb 12, IRNA — The meeting of the Arab League committee in charge of follow up the Iraq-Iran war, due to be held in Baghdad on Wednesday, is a hostile act against the Iraqi people and the Moslem revolutionaries will not be responsible for the participants' lives, said Hojjat ol-Eslam Hakim, the speaker of the Supreme Council of Iraqi Islamic Revolution, here today.

Foreign Ministry on Killing of Lebanese Muslim

LD101748 Tehran IRNA in English 1706 GMT 10 Feb 86

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 10, IRNA — Iran's Foreign Ministry here Monday condemned assassination of one of the leaders of the Islamic Tawhid Movement of Lebanon Sheikh Khalil Akawi.

Khalil Akawi was martyred by unidentified gunmen in an ambush attack on his car in the northern port city of Tripoli, Sunday.

In its statement the ministry said "once again U.S. and Zionist agents martyred an undefatigable Lebanese combatant.

The ministry in its message of condolences said that such acts show that the Islamic struggle against aggressors has so far been successful in Lebanon and that such acts will further strengthen the will of the Lebanese Muslims.

The ministry also condemned terrorist acts against the leaders of Lebanon's Islamic movement and said that "no doubt resistance of the Lebanese Muslims will not be broken as a result of such acts."

Meanwhile, Islamic Tawhid Movement held an extraordinary session chaired by Sheikh Sa'id Sha'ban to discuss terrorist activities.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Lauds Military Progress

GF091207 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 2 Feb 86 p 2

[Excerpts] A large group of members of the reconstruction crusade from all over the country who were attending vocational training classes met Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani Thursday afternoon.

The imam's representative in the Supreme Defense Council addressed the gathering. Referring to the progress in the military field as a miracle, he said: Although all the enemies of Islam tried their best to see that the war ended in the defeat of the Islamic Republic, they failed. It is quite possible they do not like Saddam either, but they do not want us to become the victors. They believe that we should be weakened in the war and our prestige should be lost, but just the opposite has happened; the Islamic Republic has gained honors and, God willing, our victory in the war will be an example in the history of mankind. The history of this war will show that there was a revolutionary nation that stood on its own feet, destroyed the biggest military forces of the world, and demolished all the obstacles in its way.

He added: This is a great experiment which the Islamic Republic will hand over to the wealth of the history of mankind. This great experiment has decorated the history of mankind and has created an epic which will remain recorded forever in history.

The Majlis president then referred to the services rendered by the reconstruction crusaders. He said: Since the jobs carried out by the reconstruction crusaders are normally in the rural areas, the work usually remains hidden from the international media. Even if they see these services they do not cover them in the press because they always look for our weak points. However, despite this, they have admitted that the work of the reconstruction crusaders, which the Muslim youth have performed in far-flung areas of the country, has been unique.

The Majlis president then referred to the dependence [as heard] of the PDRY and to the events that have happened there. He applauded the high morale of our revolutionary ummah and the economic progress that Iran has achieved without dependence. He said: Although one-third of our budget and other resources are being spent on the war, still economically we have made good progress. On the average, our industrial dependence 7 years ago was more than 60 percent. It has actually gone down to more than 30 percent. Similarly, our economic dependence in technical and material areas has also been considerably reduced. Some 95 percent of the jobs which once required foreign specialists are now being performed by our own people. Management, repairs, installation and operation is now being done by our own people, and they do the job far better than it was done in the past. This is the situation now. Third World countries now envy us.

Velayati Meets Philosophers

GF080605 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 8 Feb 86

[Text] Last night a round table was held in Tehran's Laleh [Tulip] Hotel to discuss the goals of the foreign policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Local and foreign philosophers, who are guests

of the 7th anniversary celebrations of the Islamic revolution, participated.

According to our correspondent, Foreign Minister Mr Velayati, the political deputy of the Foreign Ministry, and the directors of the Asian and Oceania, and Arab and African Countries Departments of the Foreign Ministry answered questions of the participants.

According to this report, Mr Velayati gave a speech outlining the most important principle of the foreign policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran which is the neither East, nor West policy. He answered a question on why the Islamic Republic, which adheres to the neither East, nor West policy, has relations with countries such as the Soviet Uhion and Turkey which are members of the Warsaw Pact and NATO. He said: The neither East, nor West policy means not accepting to be under the control of the East or West. This does not mean cutting off ties with them, because having relations with a country does not mean the approval of all that country's policies.

For example, we have relations with the Soviet Union but we do not approve of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. We have condemned the Soviet aggression against Afghanistan time and time again in international organizations and in our talks with Soviet officials. We do not hide our interest in the policies of those countries with which we have relations. We have always voiced our criticisms and we have confronted antireligious and antipopular policies. But one cannot judge a country's policies or make decisions without having relations with it.

Aqazadeh Discusses Oil Talks With Libya, Algeria

LD081750 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 8 Feb 86

[Interview with Petroleum Minister Gholem Reza Aqazadeh by unidentified Central News Unit correspondent on 8 February; place not identified — recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Mr Minister, oil prices have been falling while oil supplies in the international markets have been increasing for some time now. Taking note of the joint tripartite sessions which you have had (?lately) with the oil ministers of Libya and Algeria in Tripoli, could you please inform us of what the three countries' analysis of the existing situation is?

[Aqazadeh] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. We shared almost all of the same viewpoints at these joint sessions, and the topics discussed can be summarized as follows: First, the current plot is more political than economic, and it has started with the West's [words indistinct] with the cooperation of the United States and Britain as a mouthpiece, and inside OPEC as well. Some OPEC members are probably cooperating with them. Another agreed upon topic for discussion was that defending the price of existing quotas, even lowering this amount, is essential. It also was deemed very important to maintain homogeneity, support, and collaboration within OPEC under the present circumstances. It was noted that some OPEC members are embarking on certain moves that are weakening OPEC's homogeneity. Thus, these topics and viewpoints were shared by all three countries and their results can be seen in our joint statement.

[Correspondent] Iran, Algeria, and Libya in the course of these sessions have begun (?talks) to improvise ways of normalizing the oil market situation. What was the outcome and what practical proposals did these three countries put forward to solve the problem?

[Aqazadeh] After analyzing and studying the existing situation, all three countries arrived at certain conclusions and programs, some of which I will inform you about. For instance, taking note of the instability brought about in all producer countries or, the majority of them, it is necessary to have meetings with OPEC and non-OPEC members and with those not directly involved with the plot. Common points of view must be arrived at with them so that we will be able to give due regard to this subject in the forthcoming session. This matter also should be conveyed to the authorities of every country and the consequences and losses incurred if this position is not accepted must be explained. It also was decided that the existing quota must be strongly defended and we should not be prepared to see a drop in price under any circumstances. These issues together with other programs were discussed at the joint session; decisions were made which will be announced after they reach their implementation stage.

[Correspondent] In connection with the extensive collaboration (?of the three countries) with the West and [words indistinct] the drop of oil prices, there is need for collaboration on the one hand and the need for confrontation with this situation on the other. Do you foresee a continuation of the trend of a fall in oil prices? At what point will it come to a standstill?

[Aqazadeh] The continuation of this plot depends on to what extent the producer countries of OPEC and non-OPEC (?membership), those which experience instability, can preserve their homogeneity and unity and move against this plot. As you know, the industrial Western countries and the United States and some members (?of OPEC) seriously decided to break the prices and we are determined to prevent this plot. The countries with whom we have been in contact up to now, collaboration and good [word indistinct] has been anticipated. We hope that governments of producer countries will began a serious move to deal with this issue (?from the start).

With regard to those countries that have participated in this plot and especially those who spring from within OPEC membership, we must make them see their mistake and remind them that their role, action, and position in this plot will be exposed to their nations if it were realized tomorrow. They must have a reply ready to give their nations because the treason that is being committed today against the Muslim people and against Third World countries (?that are) oil producers, cannot be overlooked and is irreparable.

We also believe that this plot will not succeed if a serious and well rounded action is taken against it. We hope that we can, God willing, prevent this plot in the shortest possible time.

Deputy Foreign Minister Meets Libyan Counterpart

LD111612 Tehran IRNA in English 1558 GMT 11 Feb 86

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 11, IRNA — Visiting Libyan Deputy Foreign Minister [title as received] Sayyid Hafyanih in a meeting with his Iranian counterpart Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam here Monday emphasized the need for further coordination and unity of expression of progressive countries to confront Zionism and imperialism.

The Libyan deputy foreign minister is a member of a visiting Libyan delegation headed by Abu Sayd 'Umar Burdah, here to participate in joint political-military committee meetings between Iran and Libya.

Expressing congratulations on the 7th anniversary of the victory of the Islamic revolution of Iran, the Libyan deputy foreign minister said that Irano-Libyan ties are to such an extent that the Libyan delegation members feel at home in the Islamic Republic.

In response, the Iranian deputy foreign minister expressed thanks for the Libyan nation and leadership's congratulations on the occasion.

On the recent plots hatched by the imperialist countries in collaboration with some oil producing states to drive down oil prices, Sheykh ol-Eslam expressed hope that serious measures would be taken by the progressive OPEC member countries to thwart the conspiracy.

The two sides also reviewed the agenda for the second meet of the joint political-military committee.

Majlis Deputy Khalkhali Arrives in Libya

GF080602 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 8 Feb 86

[Text] Mr Sadeq Khalkhali, Majlis deputy from Qom, arrived in Tripoli yesterday at the head of a delegation of Majlis deputies, at the invitation of the Libyan Government. He was welcomed by a high-ranking official of the Libyan People's Congress, the Iranian ambassador to Libya, and other officials from this embassy.

Mr Khalkhali is carrying messages from Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the speaker of the Majlis, for Colonel al-Qadhdhafi and Major Jallud.

Khalkhali gave an interview to the IRNA correspondent and commented on the recent provocations by the United States and Israel in the Mediterranean Sea. He stressed: The people of Iran are beside the Libyan people. In sensitive times, we consider it our duty to defend this country.

The Majlis deputy from Qom concluded by saying: We have not exported our revolution with the force of the gun, but the people have joined us after understanding realities. He talked about the recent trip of Mr Khamene'i to Pakistan and several African countries and said: The huge welcome given to our president in these countries showed that the old formulas and the showing of bare teeth and claws to the people have no effect.

Special Envoy Takes Message to Kuwait Ruler

LD111807 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 11 Feb 86

[Text] Mr Lavasani, the special envoy of our country's president, at about midday today arrived at Kuwait International Airport to hand over a letter from Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, the chairman of the Supreme Defense Council, to the amir of Kuwait. He was welcomed by a number of Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry officials and the staff of the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Kuwait.

Qatari Minister Receives Iranian Ambassador

LD101846 Tehran IRNA in English 1726 GMT 10 Feb 86

[Text] Tehran, Feb 10, IRNA — The Islamic Republic of Iran's ambassador to Doha, Baqer Sakha'e met Qatar's Minister of Electricity and Water Shaykh Jasim ibn Muhammad Al Thani in Doha Monday.

During the meeting the Qatari minister referred to bilateral relations and said that extensive propaganda has been made against the Islamic Republic over the past years.

Al Thani said but those who know Iran will not pay attention to these propaganda.

Sakha'e in return announced Iran's viewpoints vis-a-vis the Islamic and neighboring countries and stressed on bilateral relations.

Deputy Foreign Minister Meets Venezuelan President

LD091233 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 9 Feb 86

[Text] Yesterday, an Iranian delegation headed by the deputy foreign affairs minister in charge of international and economic affairs met with Jaime Lusinchi, the Venezuelan president.

During this meeting a note from President Khamene'i was submitted to the Venezuelan president and views were exchanged on the recent oil plots. The president of Venezuela acknowledged the stances declared by the Islamic Republic of Iran and stressed the need for an orchestrated and homogeneous move to reduce the oil output figures to eradicate the present market saturation. He stated: The plot to bring down oil prices is a political one which will bring disastrous consequences to the economies of many countries as well as extensive political repercussions. We must stage an organized political move to confront this matter.

Further, in connection with OPEC, he noted: We must stand against abolishing OPEC; there is a plot to achieve this. The Venezuelan president concluded by confirming the important role played by Iran in the regional and global arena saying: Iran must take this opportunity to confront the current plots.

SAIRI Urges Iraqi Army To Act Against Saddam

LD111825 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 11 Feb 86

[Text] The Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI) met this afternoon under its chairman, Ayatollah Hakim. The meeting studied the problems of and events in Iraq, and discussed the latest developments and recent victories by Islam's combatants. Ayatollah Hakim, chairman of SAIRI, gave an interview to our colleague and replied to his questions.

Ayatollah Hakim referred to the fact that Islam's combatants have begun these sacred operations for the defense of the oppressed Iraqi nation against the oppression and tyranny of Saddam's Ba'thist, Zionist regime and for the defense of the Islamic Revolution of Iran. He said: In our opinion these operations have humanitarian and Islamic dimensions and, according to the ruling of the imam of the Islamic nation that defense of the oppressed Iraqi nation is mandatory, it is essential that all of the world public's attention should be directed to this problem. He said: Certain regional governments have been defending the Saddam regime and we have often warned them against this. We call on them to support the Iraqi nation since the fate of the Saddam regime has entered a sensitive phase today. The Iraqi people will undoubtedly make their own decision as to what stance to adopt toward the world's positions.

He said: The task carried out by Islam's combatants should have been fulfilled by the Iraqi Army and we call on the Iraqi Army in this connection to take steps against the Saddam regime, shoulder to shoulder with Islam's combatants, and to march only along the path of Islamic aspirations. We call on the Iraqi nation to make use of this opportunity to take steps against the Saddam regime.

In conclusion, the chairman of SAIRI called on all Iraqis abroad to join the ranks of the Iraqi mujahadin on the battlefronts and take effective steps along the path of Islam's aspirations.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Communique No 2378

LD111652 Tehran IRNA in English 1637 GMT 11 Feb 86

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 11, IRNA — The Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran said here Tuesday that Iranian Muslim combatants had launched an offensive at 22:00 hours local time (18:30 hours GMT) Sunday code-named 'Ya Fatemeh al-Zahra'.

The Communique Number 2378, of the Joint Staff Command says that Iranian Muslim combatants destroyed enemy's defence lines and crossed "Nahr-Ekhayyen". Iranian Muslim forces, it added, attacked Bubiyan Island and began liberating the region. The communique says that Iranian Muslim combatants continued advancing into the Iraqi territory and occupied Iraq's Kut al-Sawadi outpost.

The command says that Bubiyan Island is completely controlled by the Iranian Muslim forces and fresh troops have been dispatched to the island for next operations.

In the western and northwestern fronts, the communique says, Muslim combatants continue their fighting with the Iraqi troops. In western fronts operational regions Iranian artillery fire killed nine Iraqi soldiers and inflicted losses on the enemy, the communique says.

In northwestern fronts Iranian Muslim combatants silenced Iraqi artillery fire in Marivan Region inflicting casualties and damage on the Iraqi troops, according to the Joint Staff Command.

Meanwhile, the cities of Abadan and Khorramshahr in Khuzestan Province were subjected to the enemy's long-range artillery fire sustaining minor damage.

[Tehran IRNA in English at 1846 GMT on 11 February transmitted the following message: "Attention all editors. Tehran, Feb 11, IRNA — IRNA put two versions of the Joint staff Command Communique number 2378 on the wire twice Tuesday, they were both numbered (THR 035) but only the second version bearing title (Nine Iraqi Casualties in Western Fronts) is the confirmed text of the report and may be used. Thanks. IRNA." The second version deleted the first four paragraphs of this communique.]

Forces Occupy Al-Faw

LD111733 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 11 Feb 86

[Communique No 7 issued 11 February by the Khatam ol-Anbiya' headquarters, the center for joint operations of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

By the dawn and ten nights.[Koranic verse]

Islam's mighty combatants, following the liberation of the Iraqi city of Al-Faw, consolidated and strengthened their positions in that city this afternoon and, while repulsing two enemy counterattacks, inflicted further heavy losses and casualties on the enemy. The number of POW's evacuated behind the front so far number more than 1,000, and more than 5,000 enemy troops have been killed or wounded during the "Val-Fajr-8" operations. The swift and heroic pilots of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran in a series of operations smashed enemy positions and fortifications along the operational axes, inflicting heavy losses and casualties on the enemy. The heroic pilots of the Army aviation force raided the positions of Baghdad's Zionist forces and inflicted appreciable losses on them.

The selfless combatants of the monotheistic corps today succeeded in opening fire on and downing 10 enemy aircraft. One enemy helicopter was also shot down over the operational sector thanks to fire by Islam's combatants.

Since the beginning of "Val-Fajr-8" operations, apart from the destruction of an appreciable number of enemy tanks, personnel carriers and vehicles, dozens of tanks and personnel carriers fell intact to Islam's combatants and were immediately used against the enemy.

Succor from God and onto victory! [Koranic verse]

[Signed] The Khatam ol-Anbiya' headquarters, the center for joint operations of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps and the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

POW's Comment on Offensive

LD111839 Tehran IRNA in English 1831 GMT 11 Feb 86

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 11 IRNA — Iraqi prisoners of war taken captive in latest offensive which was launched by Iranian forces in southern fronts Sunday night, all confessed that the attack had caught them by surprise.

In an interview with IRNA Monday, 2nd Lieutenant Ibrahim al-Tamman from Battallion 499 of Brigade 47 of Iraq's 11th Division said he surrendered after Iranian artillery fire had killed all his fellow-combatants.

Another Iraqi POW, Sergeant 'Ali Ismail, aged 42, from Brigade 47 of the 11th Division said because Iraqi commanders were unaware of the attack they had not given alert order to the Iraqi troops and even allowed some soldiers to go on leave.

'Ali Ismail said Iraqi troops were surrounded by Iranian forces in the beginning of the attack and those Iraqi soldiers who tried to resist were killed.

'Abd al-Salam Salih said a large percentage of the Iraqi troops were older soldiers as evidenced by the age of those captured. He noted that most serious problem of the Iraqi regime was manpower shortage which had forced it not only to employ mercenaries but also to extend military service and reserve periods to 42 months.

Warrant Officer Jasim Kazim Jarullah said that behaviour of Iranian captors towards them is quite friendly and is contrary to what Iraqi commanders had been telling them in order to make them afraid...

Meanwhile Iraqi soldiers taken captive during the liberation of the city of Al-Faw by Iranian Muslim combatants said that Iraqi Army commanders never imagined that Iranian combatants would cross the Arvand and surmount the heavily fortified E. Tigris River area between Al-'Amarah to northern Basra and liberate Al-Faw.

In a talk with IRNA, a wounded Iraqi deputy major of Second Battalion of Brigade 441, Naji Ahmad Sulayman said that the Iraqi imposed war against Iran was unlike any other conventional war. He said that in every war the two opposing forces kill each other as soon as they face one another, however, Iranian forces help Iraqi soldiers if the need arises.

The wounded Iraqi major expressed surprise at being treated by Iranian fighters behind the lines and added that the Iraqi Army has come to an end. He urged those commanders who issue orders to resist to think of another alternative because "the strongest Iraqi fortifications have fallen".

Another Iraqi POW, 1st Lieutenant Khalaf Najm 'Abdallah of Iraq's Coast Guard said that he ordered his soldiers not to resist as soon as he learnt that Iranian forces had crossed Arvand River and laid siege to the city of Al-Faw.

He said that Iraqi political commissars had told Iraqi troops that they would be killed as soon as they were taken captive by the Iranian forces. On the contrary, he added, "the Muslim forces have treated us in a sincere and brotherly manner."

Among the POW's, was 'Ali Adnan 'Abd al-Qadir who was taken captive in Al-Faw as the Iranian Muslim combatants crossed the Arvand River.

Ba'thist commander of "Hatin" forces, Brigadier 'Abbas na'mih al-Riqabi, was seen fleeing to save his neck in fear of death.

Iraqi Losses Detailed

GF120546 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0450 GMT 12 Feb 86

[Communique No 8 issued by the Khatam ol-Anbiya' and Islamic Revolution Guards Corps Joint Operational Headquarters]

[Text] In the name of God the merciful, the compassionate. "By the dawn and by the 10 nights" [Koranic verse].

O Muslim self-sacrificing nation; O self-sacrificing faithful 'ummah. The combatants of Islam have carried out the "Val-Fajr-8" operations alongside you martyr nurturing 'ummah as a practical warning to Saddam and his supporters. The might and glory of your marches encouraged the combatants of Islam to take another step against the aggressor enemy in order to fulfill the wishes and slogans of your faithful people.

For this reason, last night at 2200 [1830 GMT] they succeeded in striking another deadly blow on the defeated Ba'thist forces West of the Arvand River and north of conquered city of Al-Faw, and were able to advance to the salt factory. As a result, the third and last missile site of the enemy was captured by the Iranian forces. More than 100 km of sensitive area in the region was liberated. One enemy battalion was destroyed and more than 700 criminal Ba'thists were killed. Two hundred of the aggressors were imprisoned; the number of prisoners taken during "Val-Fajr-8" operations has reached 1,200. In the course of these operations tens of enemy tanks were destroyed or taken as booty.

It is noteworthy that in Al-Faw region alone deadly blows have been struck against the following enemy units by your children: the 111st Infantry Brigade, totally destroyed; 5th Commando Battalion of the 26th Army, totally destroyed; 2d Battalion of the 441st Brigade, totally destroyed; 22d Battalion of Difa' al-Wajibat, totally destroyed; 3 units of the people's army, totally

destroyed; the port defense company, totally destroyed; 2d Battalion of the 440th Brigade, totally destroyed; 441st Company of the Commando Brigade. 50 percent destroyed; 110th Infantry Brigade, 25 percent destroyed; one battalion from the 7th army, 20 percent destroyed; and the Dhu al-Nurayn Tank Battalion and the Salah al-Din Observation Battalion have sustained heavy losses. "With the assistance of God, victory is at hand." [Koranic verse]

Captured Tanks Turned on Iraq

LD120812 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0755 GMT 12 Feb 86

[Text] According to reports received a few minutes ago from the Khatam ol-Anbiya' headquarters, the center for joint operations of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the powerful combatants of Islam continue the victorious "Val-Fajr-8" operation and have now captured more than 120 tanks and personnel carriers belonging to the enemy together with 150 various undamaged vehicles. At present this equipment is being used against the enemy.

This report also indicates that the POW transfer to locations behind the front line continues. Among the POW's there are 14 Iraqi officers and 100 NCO's. Reports from Khatam ol-Anbiya' say that the combatants of Islam are establishing and fortifying the positions liberated as the result of last night's operations. Having carried out mopping up operations including capturing enemy's last missile base which is under the control of Islam's forces, our combatants have opened fire on enemy positions and concentration points.

Four Warplanes Downed

LD120920 Tehran IRNA in English 0852 GMT 12 Feb 86

[Text] Val-Fajr-8 Operational Theater, Feb. 12, IRNA — Four more Iraqi warplanes were downed by the heavy anti-aircraft fire of the Islamic combatants of Iran Wednesday morning.

The number of Iraqi warplanes downed by the Iranian combatants since the start of Val-Fajr-8 offensive Sunday night, now stands at 14.

Meanwhile latest reports from the operational theater indicate that the Iranian forces in addition to destroying a remarkable amount of the Iraqi munitions, have seized over 150 intact armoured tanks and personnel carriers, and 40 anti-aircraft artillery pieces.

The seized ammunition are being used by the Islamic combatants against the Iraqi enemy, and their deployment has increased the combat power of the Iranian forces in the operational theater.

The Iranian forces are also utilising seized engineering machineries of the enemy, including 15 loaders, to clean up the area and reinforce their strongholds and positions.

Meanwhile, the Iranian forces completely destroyed seven more Iraqi Jaysh al-Sha'bi units killing or wounding their personnel.

The Salah al-Din patrol and Zolnurrain tank brigades were also completely smashed Wednesday.

At present the operational theater is covered with the corpses of the Iraqi forces and a thick cloud of smoke from the Iraqi equipment set ablaze billows over the operational theater.

Iraqi Army Commander Receives Award for 'Desertion'

LD111958 Tehran IRNA in English 1939 GMT 11 Feb 86

[text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., Feb. 11, IRNA — Saddam Husayn has rewarded a runaway Iraqi army commander of Al-Faw, describing him as a "Hero of Al-Qadisiyah". It seems ironic that he was awarded the Al-Rafidayn Medal for supposed bravery, while his very act of desertion was one of cowardice.

The commander, Brigadier General Najm 'Abdallah was the first to quit his post in the Al-Faw operational region where the Iranian combatants launched their attack.

Iraqi POW, Major Naji Ahmad Sulayman, deputy commander of Brigade 441 of Division 26 of Iraqi Army said that 'Abdallah was the first Iraqi officer who quit the command room when the offensive began.

The Iraqi major said that as the brigadier escaped he ordered his soldiers to surrender to the Iranian Muslim fighters without resisting.

The Iraqi POW said that the absurd titles such as hero or commander of Al-Qadisiyah are undeserved by Saddam and his clique who flee the war fronts to save their own lives.

Commentary Views Relations With Soviet Union

GF111752 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 3 Feb 86 p 20

[Political commentary by Yunas Shakarkhah: "Moscow, A New Choice?"]

[Text] Georgiy Korniyenko, Soviet first deputy foreign minister, arrived in Tehran yesterday afternoon at the invitation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This visit is, in fact, a follow up to the visit to Moscow by the economic and international affairs deputy in our Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

There is no denying that this visit is considered important, and not only by the Islamic Republic of Iran and the USSR. All of the major political circles in the world are studying the visit and its outcome very carefully.

By sending Edward Shevardnadze's deputy to visit our country, the Soviet Union has paid due respect to the greatest power in the region — revolutionary Iran. Naturally, our reciprocal response may be interpreted as a first step toward a dexterous diplomatic move. It is but natural that the gesture of despatching such a high-ranking official of the Soviet Ministry of Foreign Affairs to visit Iran would prove effective only if he evaluates relations between the two countries based on Iranian diplomacy. Those who follow international political problems know full well

that this visit may serve as a prelude to establishing deeper relations and raising the existing relations to a higher level based on reciprocal understanding.

The present atmosphere of the relations between Iran and the Soviet Union is not very pleasant, due mostly to two problems — the occupation of Afghanistan and the Iran-Iraq war. In fact we must say that it is the Soviet Union which could basically eliminate the present coolness.

The other issue which has acted as a independent factor in creating the present conditions is Iran's treatment of movements within the country which lean toward the East; this is truly and completely a domestic issue. Unfortunately, Moscow is still not prepared to accept this. The least we can say is that the Soviets' attitude in this matter has been an ebb and flow. From the point of view of Iran and all revolutionary and just international circles this is a domestic issue which is dead and considered finished. Iran has repeatedly announced that this issue will under no circumstances affect the general relationship between Moscow and Tehran. Now there remains only two problems — the occupation of Afghanistan and the imposed war.

The occupation of Afghanistan by the Soviet Union may have taken place as an invasion (seeking closeness to the Persian Gulf) or as a defensive measure (to combat the growing waves of Islam), but whatever the reason it is not acceptable either to Iran or to any others with sound logic. Let us say that this military occupation took place when Iran was a center of anti-American campaigns (taking as hostages the American spies) and the step taken by the Soviet Union caused the rightists and the regional political circles to become more coordinated and drew the public attention from the anti-American move to another side. We may mention that no sooner had the Red Army crossed the border into Afghanistan than Brzezinski, Carter's national security chief, ordered the cessation of all hostile American measures against Iran so that he could turn the anti-American atmosphere toward the Soviet Union. In any case, this military occupation is not acceptable at all and if the situation persists it will naturally become a Vietnam for the Soviet Union. Despite these problems, the Iranian stand on the occupation of Afghanistan is quite clear. We must reiterate that Iran would prefer a nonaligned Afghanistan to an occupied Afghanistan.

Moscow again referred to its stance on the imposed war in the Saddam-Gromyko meeting and asked for a quick end to the war. To be brief, we do not wish to repeat the rightful stance of Iran on the war. The war is at the top of everything and will continue until victory. It is for Moscow not to waste time. It is obvious that the Iranian revolutionary people are guardians of the Islamic revolution and will know friend from enemy in difficult times. They will strengthen their future relations on this principle. If Moscow keeps to its present stance on the war, will it not lose the strategic reserve strength of the Iranian revolution which at present is being used in clashes against the United States.

One of the important dimensions of Korniyenko's visit is when it took place, which might give the Soviet Union an historical choice, because Korniyenko came to Iran at a time when a powerful mobilization throughout the country is ready to battle the Zionist enemy and is itching to go into action. Therefore we should say that although at first sight political circles may take the Korniyenko visit in connection with the framework of "end the war," we must also say that the fact is today the Iranian military and political capabilities are at their zenith and the "paths to end war" have changed to "determining the fate of Saddam". Moscow is surely aware of this. It is on this account that Moscow should not waste time. The time factor is the only parameter for political exchanges which cannot be reversed.